

September 19, 2019 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Minutes

Submitted: Sam Corda – November 21, 2019

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Janet Burns, Deborah Masterson, Jim Barton, David Lyons, Claudia Thompson, Sophia Emperador, Ann Roosevelt and Susan Agger

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Adam Corbeil, Jennifer Letourneau and Candace Young

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Jamie O'Connell, and Vincent Falcione

Others in Attendance:

Duke Bitsko – Hatch, Martha Stearns – Cambridge Plant and Garden Club

Item 1: Tour of Woodland Habitat Restoration Project (E. Wylde and Friends of FP)

A number of Board members and others toured the native plant restoration project maintained for many years by the Friends of Fresh Pond. Tour leader Elizabeth Wylde noted that Fall is the most beautiful moment in the habitat when clusters of wood asters and goldenrods are in flower. The group returned at about 6:25pm

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 2: Review Agenda

No changes.

Item 3: Meeting Minutes

The May minutes were not ready for review and will be available at the November meeting.

Item 4: Watershed Manager's Report

Landscape Design Services Contract: The landscape design services contract was awarded to Hatch Engineering. The first year's scope of work will include: (1) Black's Nook assessment to determine strategies for an in-lake restoration and (2) Pine Forest existing conditions assessment.

DCR Greenway: Contrary to the Master Plan and the DCR/VHB planting plan approved by the Water Board and the Advisory Board, the DOT contractors ripped the slope along the new path in front of the Treatment Plant. The City will provide additional oversight of the repair work consulting with the Water Department to follow Master Plan standards. The slope and drainage swale is being redesigned with plantings to meet appropriate Master Plan standards. Carol Johnson Associates is doing this work and a plan is available for review.

DCR Greenway Lighting: Lighting along the Cambridge stretch of the Greenway, has been delayed until the appropriate public process takes place. The City Manager has informed the Water Department and the Advisory Board that no lighting will be installed inside the Reservation without input from the Cambridge Water Board, the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board and the general public.

Glacken Field and Playground Renovation Project: The first community meeting on this project is scheduled for September 26th at 6:30pm at Russell Youth Center. The first phase is to reconfigure the fields in the existing developed footprint. Future phases will be reviewed/discussed with the Water and Fresh Pond Advisory Boards.

Item 5: Landscape Maintenance

Through the bid process we have contracted with Essex Horticulture to perform invasives removal within Fresh Pond Reservation. Claudia Thompson discussed a concern with apparent increasing maintenance vehicle usage and damage associated with it. CWD will work to minimize vehicle use and avoid any long-term impacts. Rutting and short-term impacts will be managed in a timely manner.

Item 6: Final Sustainable Landscape Management Plan

The revised “Guiding Principals” section of the final Fresh Pond Reservation Sustainable Landscape Management Plan was handed out for review.

Deborah Masterton moved and Sophia Emperador seconded the motion to approve the “Guiding Principals of the Sustainable Landscape Management Plan. The vote as unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 7: Proposed Black’s Nook Pond Study

Duke Bitsko, Hatch Engineering, made a presentation on the proposed Black’s Nook In-Pond Restoration” study. Please use the following link to view the presentation from our webpage

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/Projects/blacksnook/SeptFPABBN9192019Final.pdf>.

Item 8: Long Term Master Plan Projects: Annual Update

The main projects for the next ten years area as follows (in chronological order):

Blacks Nook, Pine Forest, Kingsley Park. ADA Compliance and Perimeter Road Paving is ongoing with every project

Item 9: Fresh Pond Day Report

Sam Corda and Dave Kaplan noted that many City Departments and other organizations were represented at Fresh Pond Day and that there were fewer people overall compared to last year, but more families attended the day’s events. Future table configurations will be discussed with the Advisory Board.

Item 10: Preliminary Agenda for November 21, 2019 Advisory Board Meeting

Watershed Manager Report; Project Updates; Volunteer Report: Annual Update; Reservation Usage Report; Effects of Mooney Street Development on Black’s Nook.

Item 12: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ann Roosevelt moved, and Jim Barton seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.